

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Office of Fire and Aviation  
3833 South Development Avenue  
Boise, Idaho 83705

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To: State Directors  
From: Director, Office of Fire and Aviation  
Subject: National Award, Excellence in Ecosystem Management@ DD: 10/31/98

Fire is a natural process which is fundamentally significant to almost every ecosystem benefiting people, property and natural resources. The National Office of Fire and Aviation has sponsored an award to recognize Bureau individuals, groups or units that have substantially advanced prescribed burning as a tool critical to achieving healthy ecosystems. This award focuses on leadership in prescribed fire.

Enclosed you will find a document entitled ANational Fire and Aviation Management Award for Excellence Using Prescribed Fire in Ecosystem Management.@ This document describes the award, nomination process, evaluation criteria and selection panel. The states need to have nominations to the Director, Office of Fire and Aviation, by October 31 in order to qualify for consideration. The final selection will be made by mid-November.

The award will be presented at the National Fire and Aviation Conference to an individual or the unit supervisor.

If you have any questions, please contact Phil Range at 208-387-5555.

Signed by:  
Lester K. Rosenkrance  
Director, Office of Fire and Aviation

Authenticated by:  
Pat Lewis  
Supervisory Mgmt. Asst.

1 - Attachment  
1 - National Prescribed Fire Award (3 pp.)

## **NATIONAL PRESCRIBED FIRE AWARD**

### **AWARD NAME: AEXCELLENCE IN ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT®**

**PURPOSE:** Fire is an ecological process which is significant to most ecosystems. Its effect on ecological systems is dramatic; its role is to maintain, restore, or achieve desired future conditions, and to protect life, property and ecosystem values that would be degraded by wildfire. The award categories are for individuals, groups, or units that have substantially advanced the use of prescribed fire as a tool critical to achieving land health for the BLM. This award recognizes an individual, group, or unit that has made significant contributions in support of prescribed fire for the health of the land. These awards for AAccomplishments and/or Support® will focus on excellence promoting prescribed fire.

**Accomplishment Award** will recognize accomplishments in leadership in managing, planning, implementing and monitoring a prescribed fire program or project that meets the evaluation criteria.

**Support Award** will recognize accomplishments for providing leadership in the areas of science, education, partnership, or an exceptional contribution to advancing prescribed fire use that meets the evaluation criteria.

**Frequency:** Either the individual or unit may be honored, or both, and this award will be presented annually. The award(s) will be presented at the National Fire and Aviation Conference and will consist of a plaque and/or a monetary award.

**Nominations:** Each State Office may submit nominations to the Office of Fire and Aviation by October 31 of each year. Project nomination(s) should include a one page narrative describing prescribed fire accomplishments and an explanation of how these actions contributed to protecting and improving natural resources to meet land management objectives.

**SELECTION:** The selection of the best candidate(s)/group(s) will be made by an awards committee consisting of a representative of the Director, Office of Fire and Aviation, a Field Manager and a nationally recognized prescribed fire specialist. The selected individual(s)/unit(s) names will be forwarded to the Director of the BLM by the Director of the Office of Fire and Aviation for National recognition.

## **EVALUATION CRITERIA:**

Nominations will be evaluated on six emphasis categories. (Not all categories will be appropriate for all nominations.)

Each nomination will be evaluated against the following criteria. Nominations should address each criterion separately, limited to one half page for each of the six criteria. Nominations should include a brief description of the prescribed fire program or project and accomplishments. They should particularly address each of the following criteria:

1. Interaction with ecosystem objectives through demonstrated prescribed fire use.

**Objective:** Develop and implement Management Ignited Prescribed Fire and/or Prescribed Natural Fire to sustain and restore ecosystems in support of land management objectives.

**Criteria:** Complexity; cost efficiency/effectiveness; fire history (natural fire regime, site-specific resource benefit; natural range of variability); utilization of management ignited fire where approved. Restores or promotes native diversity and integrity of biological communities through fire's natural role.

2. Program Support

**Objective:** Provide leadership for prescribed fire program(s) in support of ecosystem management through internal and external publics.

**Criteria:** Leadership, training, monitoring, technical, specialist support encouraging public participation in fire (planning, implementation and monitoring). Fostering knowledge of fire interrelationship and ecosystem health.

3. Prescribed fire in support of ecosystem management: landscape, habitat and reclamation scales.

**Objective:** Unique use of prescribed fire or continuing excellence in prescribed fire landscape scale treatments, urban/wildland interface hazard reduction, complex smoke management, conflicting needs of threatened, endangered, or sensitive species.

**Criteria:** Fire history (natural fire regime, natural range of variability), non-traditional/innovative partnerships/public involvement/awareness/acceptance, site-specific resource benefit, project/program excellence in all stages of planning, implementation and monitoring.

4. Urban Interface

**Objective:** Implement prescribed fire for urban interface wildfire protection through management practices that support land management objectives.

**Criteria:** Risk (assessment/reduction); public involvement/awareness; acceptance; education, cost effectiveness; efficiency; partnerships; long term effective benefits; project; program excellence in all stages (planning, implementation, monitoring).

5. Unique Prescribed Fire Accomplishments

**Objective:** Develop and further prescribed fire expertise and capability for advancing excellence in prescribed fire use.

**Criteria:** Activity fuels; long-term prescribed fire accomplishment; recognition of past and continuing innovative/progressive/beneficial prescribed fire excellence; and project/program excellence in all stages. Using non-fire personnel and projects that cross jurisdictional or ownership boundaries.

6. Public Education

**Objective:** Develop and implement ongoing public education (internal/external in all applicable age groups) program about the positive role of fire in support of ecosystem management and the negative consequences of fire exclusion. Gain public acceptance for the use of prescribed fire in support of ecosystem management.

**Criteria:** Provide significant support to prescribed fire programs in support of ecosystem management.